

## SMALL CLAIMS COURT CASES: WHY TRY DISPUTE RESOLUTION?

<b>In Mediation:</b>	<b>In Small Claims Court:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ You can keep control of the outcome of your case</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ The judge decides the outcome of your case for you.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ You can discuss and make agreements on aspects of the case that are important to you, including services, exchange of property, and interpersonal relationships, as well as money.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ The judge can only deal with money issues.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ You can negotiate a settlement to your case based on what what seems fair and workable to both parties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ The judge will decide your case based on the evidence and the applicable law.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ You can work out agreements for collecting any moneys owed you, including payment plans. Most people stick to mediated agreements, because they are voluntarily agreed to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ The court doesn't collect judgments for you, and you may have to go through further legal proceedings to collect any moneys owed you.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ Mediated agreements are private settlements out of court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ A judgment against you is a matter of public record, which can negatively impact reputation and credit ratings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ You can keep your dispute confidential, and speak about it in a private setting with just the mediator and other party present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ Everyone in the courtroom will hear whatever is said about you or your business.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ Mediation is an informal process where you can talk freely about what is important to you, and there is no burden of proof.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ You need to provide evidence to substantiate your case, and must stick to the legal issues only.</li> </ul>